

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application. Claim 35 has been added, leaving Claims 1-23 and 35 for consideration. Support for new claim 35 can be found in paragraph 54. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the Notice of Allowability mailed on January 30, 2004. Applicants however wish to request clarification of a few remaining issues. Applicants submitted a first Petition to Expunge on September 25, 2003 that accompanied an Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants received an initialed copy of this Information Disclosure Statement on which each reference was crossed out and initialed. In a telephone interview Examiner Shameem indicated that each reference was considered. Confirmation is requested.

Applicants submitted a second Petition to Expunge on November 19, 2003. Applicants respectfully request clarification as to the disposition of the second petition.

Applicants have not received an initialed copy of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on January 23, 2004, November 4, 2003, and February 5, 2003. Copies of these Information Disclosure Statements are attached hereto.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0862.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Patricia S. DeSimone
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